



# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

## SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

## DISTRICT OF HAMPTON WICK,

FOR THE YEAR 1894.

### *The Urban District Council of Hampton Wick.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to place before you my annual report on the Mortality, Health, and Sanitary condition of your district for the year 1894.

The total number of deaths which occurred and were registered was 27 and included

- 1 from whooping cough,
- 2 from phthisis,
- 1 from heart disease,
- 8 from diseases of the nervous system,
- 2 from cancer,
- 6 from injuries, and
- 7 from various causes.

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27

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Fifteen were males and 12 females; 5 were under 1 year of age and 7 above 65.

Amongst those 27 deaths, were 4 persons who were found drowned in the river Thames and 1 who was killed by a train, and those 5 persons had no connection with the district, except that they were found dead within its boundary. This reduces the number of deaths to 22.

The population of the district was, according to the census of 1891,—2378; it is now approximately the same. Taking this number, the mortality from all causes, is at the annual average rate of 9.25.

The number of births was 58, of which 26 were males and 32 females, giving a birth rate of 24.39.

The infant mortality was 86.2 per 1000 births.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### I. *Not Notifiable.*

*Influenza.* Some isolated cases occurred, but the disease was not of an epidemic nature.

*Measles.* This disease was almost completely absent from the district.

*Whooping Cough* Few cases (nearly all imported) came under my notice. One death of an infant 9 months old was registered.

### II. *Notifiable.*

No case of *Small-pox*, *Typhoid Fever*, *Diphtheria*, *Membranous Croup*, or *Puerperal Fever* occurred in the district.

*Scarlatina.* Ten cases were notified and most of them occurred in the spring. They were all isolated in their own homes, with the exception of three belonging to one family, who were taken to the workhouse Infirmary. The cases were all of a mild type and no case proved fatal.

*Erysipelas.* Two cases were notified.

*Diarrhœa.* After the receipt of the circular letter from the Local Government Board with reference to precautions to be taken against Cholera, and suggesting that Diarrhœa should be added to the list of notifiable diseases, the Sanitary Authority passed a resolution on my recommendation, that diarrhœa should be added to the diseases notifiable under sect. 7 of the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889, and that such remains in force till November 30th, 1894, and apply to persons over two years of age. During the time the resolution was in force, only three cases were notified, and those were of a very mild type. No death occurred during the year.

*Vaccination.* In my capacity of Public Vaccinator, I have frequent opportunities of ascertaining the views of parents about the advantages of having their children vaccinated, and I am sorry to say the mischievous articles in various publications have created an erroneous impression on the minds of many parents, who now have their children vaccinated under compulsion. But should the vaccination laws be relaxed, a great number of parents will take advantage of any alteration, and this state of affairs would be very detrimental to the community at large, if an outbreak of small-pox were to occur in a district.

## NUISANCES.

Very few nuisances were reported to the Inspector,

2 arose from smells from sewers,

4 from stagnant water in roads,

4 from accumulation of dust and house refuse,

4 from defective drainage,

1 from decaying vegetable matter in the allotment grounds. The latter

were submerged during the serious *flood* in November, and after the water had subsided, the vegetables became rotten and caused a very offensive smell. A number of men had to be employed, to collect and to bury them. Although no injury to health or prevalence of sickness was observed after the floods, the inhabitants near the river and especially Old Bridge Street suffered severely. After the flood had subsided, I visited the locality and advised the inhabitants to give free access of air to the houses by opening doors and windows, and to keep good fires burning, for which purpose coal was distributed.

*Dust and House Refuse.*

The removal of dust and house refuse was satisfactorily carried out and only a few complaints were reported.

*Water supply.*

The water supply from the Grand Junction Waterworks was satisfactory and continuous. During the flood the water was somewhat discoloured.

*Main Sewerage.*

A final notice was given in March to the owners of all houses not connected with the Board's sewers to do so within a month after service of notice, and those notices were complied with. All houses in the district have now their connections completed. By the erection of ventilating shafts and ventilating lamps the nuisance of bad smells emanating from the man-holes was abated; but various complaints were received about smells coming across the river from the Kingston Sewage Works, which receive the Hampton Wick Sewage. The case was represented to the Corporation of Kingston, who stated in reply that they were making arrangements for dealing more effectually with the fumes.

In consequence of a complaint of the Thames Conservators with reference to offensive matter flowing into the river Thames from the old brick drain at the bottom of Old Bridge Street, the owners of property in that locality received notice, to connect their houses with the Board's sewer, and this order was complied with.

*Un-sanitary Houses.*

The repairs of May's cottages in Old Bridge Street were taken in hand, but only the most urgent defects were remedied, and it will be necessary for the premises to be kept under strict supervision. The cottage in the worst condition is now being pulled down, and I hope if a new building is erected, due consideration will be given to proper air supply, ventilation and light.

*Slaughter Houses, Cowsheds and Dairies.*

They were all visited and found in a satisfactory condition.

*Bakehouses.* They were periodically inspected and no fault was found.

*Mortuary.* The triangular piece of ground adjoining Kingston Bridge was recommended by your committee as a suitable site for the erection of a Mortuary. The ground is under the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of works and public buildings, who were willing to grant a lease, but subject to a termination on 12 months notice. The cost of the building was estimated to be about £400, and when the Sanitary Authority applied for a loan for that purpose, the Local Government Board, after due enquiry, refused their consent for granting a loan on a building, which may have to be given up at a 12 month's notice. As there is probably no other available site for a mortuary to be found within the district, the Sanitary Authority took steps, on my recommendation, to improve the present shed and to make such alterations as are necessary for the requirements of proper mortuary accommodation. The ground on which the present structure stands, belongs to the South-Western Railway Company, and when the intention of the Sanitary Authority to improve the present building became known, opposition to the plan was raised by an adjoining inhabitant, and the Railway Company refused their sanction to the proposed alteration. I regret that the Railway Company came to such a decision, as the shed had been used for about 15 years for a mortuary, and no nuisance was ever experienced. There has never been any occasion to bring a body which had died from an infectious disease to the mortuary, and there were never more than 4 or 5 cases a year taken there, and those were the bodies of persons who were drowned or killed on the railway. No complaint of any nuisance was ever received and none can arise with an improved building, where all the means of deodorization and disinfection are at hand.

*Isolation Hospital.* Since the failure of the negotiations with neighbouring districts for combined action to institute a joint Hospital Board, no further steps were taken by the Sanitary Authority, who is in this question entirely dependent on its neighbours, as it is absolutely impossible to find a site for an Isolation Hospital within the district, I can only repeat the remarks I made in my last report, that the difficulty will be only overcome by an appeal to the County Council, to constitute a joint Hospital District.

*Inspections.* Besides visits of inspection in connection with infectious diseases, a systematic inspection of the district was made in December. I was sorry to observe that the resolution of the Board, passed in March, to make the supply of proper dust-bins compulsory, was in some cases disregarded, and I should advise a stricter supervision in that direction. I should also recommend the galvanized iron boxes in preference to the brick and wooden structures, as the non-absorbent walls of the iron pails and the ease with which they can be emptied and carried to the dust-cart, offer great advantages over the brick dust-bin.

I remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

TH. GÜNTHER, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Hampton Wick,

January, 1895.